





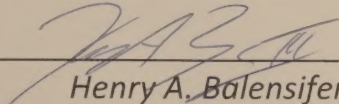
Certificate of Appreciation

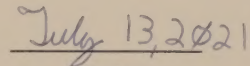
This certificate is awarded to:

Norm and Brenda Hoxsey

*In recognition of the countless hours, boundless energy, and community spirit
that inspired over 70 nuisance property cleanups, improved downtown
aesthetics and business pride, and created a better city.*

On behalf of a grateful Warrenton City Commission,


Henry A. Balensifer III, Mayor


Date

Group fixing downtown wins grant to do even more



The Warrior sculpture overlooks the four-way stop, which is about to get landscaping.

Spruce Up Warrenton Chair Brenda Hoxsey with her husband, Norm, in front of the historic Fenton Grocery Building in downtown Warrenton. (Cindy Yingst)

By Cindy Yingst, Wednesday, September 25, 2019

The downtown revitalization group, officially renamed Spruce Up Warrenton, has won \$40,000 from the Reser Family Foundation. The series of \$10,000 grants will be paid over four years.

"I was in a state of shock. I was just ecstatic," said Brenda Hoxsey, chair of Spruce Up. "We've got goals and we've reached some of them, but there's so many things we want to do. But we haven't had any money to do anything."

The group already has contacted the high school and grade school. "They are excited about working with us on projects," Hoxsey said. "The new welding class can make garbage cans, the design class has the equipment for making decorative 'sleeves' for the garbage cans, plus they want the students to do projects with us."

The Beaverton-based Reser Family Foundation, established by owners of the company that makes deli salads sold at Fred Meyer and other markets, established the grant program to "transform people and places across the state. Our grants aim to provide the broadest public benefit, creating a future that's brighter for all," according to their website.

Reser's Small Community Initiative program is in its inaugural year and Spruce Up Warrenton is the first and only grant recipient this year from a pool of 111 applicants. "Next year, we will add another community," said Lacey Sortman, the foundation's grant and program coordinator. "It is extremely special. The timing of where they are in their process – they're newly named, it was Downtown Revitalization Team when they first submitted in the spring. ... Their birth with the birth of our program is really great synergy."

Spruce Up has grown from 14 to 27 people this year with 64 documented hours of donated work each month. Members have pressure-washed downtown sidewalks, cleaned the Skipanon River Trail, removed trash and debris from numerous properties and obtained a new sign for Warrenton Community Library. The group will immediately receive \$5,000 and they'll get an additional \$5,000 as part of a community matching grant. If community members match the amount, Spruce Up will receive a total of \$15,000 in its first year, with \$10,000 more coming each of the next three years. "We're so excited to be able to partner with them. The monumental work the volunteers have done is beyond admirable," Sortman said after a meeting with city officials on Wednesday. "We fell in love with them." Added Mary Jo Prlain, the foundation's executive director: "We are so excited about working with your community, just thrilled. We feel like Warrenton is just really ready. The community is really engaged."

Until Spruce Up sets up its own nonprofit registry and bank account, donations can be made to Warrenton-Hammond Healthy Kids/Spruce Up, P.O. Box 2426, Gearhart OR 97138.

A new bench and trash can on Main Avenue, across the street from Sandridge Construction's new refurbished headquarters. (Cindy Yingst)



Five large planters were placed outside Main Street Market earlier this summer. (Cindy Yingst)



Hanging flower baskets and a planter for flowers adorn the entrance to Warrenton Fire Department. (Cindy Yingst)

City, grassroots team honored for downtown improvements




Warrenton representatives show off their award from last week's Oregon Main Street Conference in Tillamook. They are, L-R, city employees Morgan Murray and Kevin Cronin, Spruce Up Warrenton members Lori Beth Kulp, Norm Hoxsey and Brenda Hoxsey, and Oregon Main Street coordinator Sheri Stuart. (Courtesy city of Warrenton)

Friday, October 11, 2019

Downtown Warrenton was recognized during a statewide conference of Oregon Main Street.

The city, along with Spruce Up Warrenton, were named "The One to Watch."

There were 20 businesses, projects, and people recognized at the annual awards event held late last week in Tillamook.



"The city and Spruce Up Warrenton have been working hard on revitalizing downtown (and) South Main Avenue and it is getting noticed!" the city exclaimed on its Facebook page.

Brenda Hoxsey, director of the grassroots Spruce Up Warrenton group, was surprised they'd won an award. She and others from their group had attended the conference to pick up some tips.

"I had no idea and, when we registered, they had little nametags that hung around your neck. Norm (her husband) and I both got one. And it said we were an award winner. I thought there must be a mistake here," Hoxsey said.

Spruce Up has been working separately but in cooperation with the city. Together they've helped revitalize more than a dozen downtown properties, removed weeds and trash, and encouraged businesses to add planters and flowers.

The city has worked with property owners to remove blight at dozens more properties throughout the city. Marina staff created a successful Fish and Farmers Market on Thursdays. Commissioners created an area for a food truck court next to City Hall and its Urban Renewal Agency embarked on a landscaping plan at the four-way stop, near the high school and along South Main Avenue.

"We've got a lot to do yet," Hoxsey said. "People taking a lot more pride in the community. It's been very rewarding."


The group plans several large projects in the spring and is working with Warrenton High School's welding class on decorative trash cans and art students to do some murals.

Also recognized:

** Sarah Lu, Astoria Downtown Historic District Association's executive director, was named Main Street Manager of the Year.

** Marcus and Michelle Liotta, owners of the M&N Building, 248 Marine Drive, for Best Historic Preservation Project.

"The award winners serve as inspiration to communities across our network and reflect some of the highest level of revitalization success," said Sheri Stuart, state coordinator of Oregon Main Street. "We are so inspired to see how our historic downtowns across Oregon are coming to life through the creativity, passion, and plain hard work of community members."



Painting the town red, green and sparkly

Elliott Strain, 4, visits with Santa during Sunday's Light Up Downtown event.



A group of youngsters helps Mayor Henry Balensifer throw the switch to light up downtown. (Cindy Yingst)

Wednesday, December 25, 2019

Downtown Warrenton has put on its sparkly party dress and is ready for the holidays. Volunteers lined the first two blocks of South Main Avenue with candy cane stripes and hung banners and pole decorations. Storefronts got fancified. Sunday afternoon, Mayor Henry Balensifer – with the help of several children – threw the main switch to light the decorations on and around the lighthouse museum at the four-way stop. “We wanted to support the community and it’s just a good kickoff to Christmas,” said Sara Rehnert, who brought her large family to the lighting ceremony. Spruce Up Warrenton and Warrenton Business Association sponsored the event, which included visits with Santa, an appearance by a snowman and elf, hot cocoa and treats, plus holiday music.



Warrenton Business Association Chair Mike Moha, left, with his son, Connor, chats with Mayor Henry Balensifer. (Cindy Yingst)

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Christmas decorations have been up for a while, but there still are some surprises this weekend for downtown Warrenton.

Spruce Up Warrenton and Warrenton Business Association are hosts for a holiday party and "light up downtown" event that begins at 4 p.m. Sunday at the Lighthouse Museum at Main Avenue and Harbor Drive (also known as the four-way stop).

Santa will be available for photo and he's bringing an elf who will help distribute cookies and hot chocolate.

There will be holiday music and caroling. Mayor Henry Balensifer and other city notables will welcome the crowd.

Rick Newton donated money from his City Commission stipend to install a large JOY sign on the side of the museum. Several high school students decorated the windows of the Fenton Building this week. They'll be using the building to fill Christmas food and toy baskets, which will be distributed to needy families before Christmas.

ho ho ho
Visit Santa



Group receives award, recognizes business owner



Members of Spruce Up Warrenton accept a \$5,000 check from the Reser Family Foundation.

Thursday, January 30, 2020

The Reser Family Foundation recently awarded a \$5,000 grant to local nonprofit Spruce Up Warrenton, with an additional \$5,000 offered as a one-to-one match for any community donations. The funding renews annually for four years, for a total of \$40,000 over the duration of the grant. Spruce Up Warrenton was one of 111 groups that applied for the new grant opportunity and was the first and only recipient named last year. Lacey Sortman, grant and program coordinator for The Reser Family Foundation, presented the check to the group at its Jan. 16 meeting. "Spruce Up Warrenton's results are visible, tangible and ongoing improvements," Sortman said. "They have an impressive list of achievements. The Reser Family Foundation is proud to be a part of this fundraising campaign to help meet their goals and support their ambitious list of future projects." Donations for the match program, should be sent to Spruce Up Warrenton, P.O. Box 97, Warrenton, OR 97146.

Also at its meeting, the group presented its first-ever certificate of appreciation to Cindy Yingst, owner of The Columbia Press and The UPS Store. She was recognized for her longtime support of the Warrenton business community and her dedication to improving the downtown corridor. Yingst served on the Warrenton Business Association for four years and was coordinator of Warrenton's Fourth of July activities for nine years. She and her husband have donated to Spruce Up Warrenton, Warrenton Community



Brenda Hoxsey, right, chair of Spruce Up Warrenton, presents a certificate of appreciation to Cindy Yingst.

Library, American Red Cross, local ham radio clubs, Warrenton CERT and facilitated the purchase of 400 new books for Warrenton's Start Making a Reader Today program.

Art contest focuses on unity



Thursday, May 14, 2020

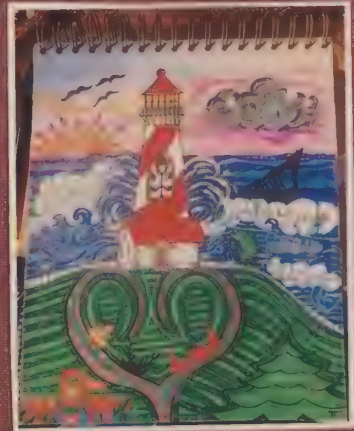
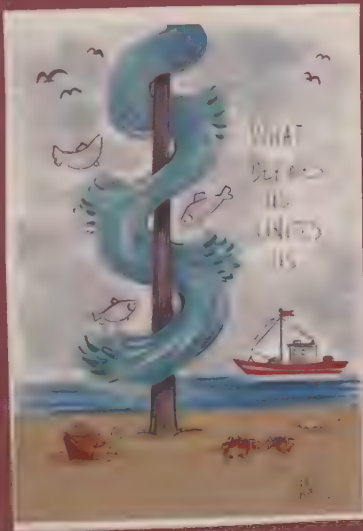
Spruce Up Warrenton seeks entries for a Whimsical Warrenton Art Contest. The theme is "Unity in our Community."

Entries are due by 5 p.m. Sunday, May 24.

To participate, make a two-dimensional art piece, such as a painting, collage, drawing, stencil or digital illustration.

A photo of the artwork, along with the artist's name and mailing address, should be submitted to spruceupwarrenton@gmail.com.

Artists must live in Warrenton. All submissions will be posted on the Spruce Up Warrenton Facebook page beginning at 10 a.m. May 26 and running through 5 p.m. June 1. Each reaction from the public (like, love, care, haha, wow, etc.) will be counted as one vote. Winners will be announced after June 1. The winner will receive a \$15 gift card to the Warrenton business of their choice.



Thursday, June 11, 2020

"Unity in Our Community," a processional event to honor first responders, is being planned for June 17.

The event is being organized by Spruce Up Warrenton and the Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce and is designed for public participation. Residents along the route are urged to decorate their homes, make signs of support, and wave and make noise as the Unity Tribute Train passes through the neighborhood.

Where, exactly, will the procession go? Details still are in the works, but are expected to include the high school, Ridge Road, housing developments, Hammond Marina, downtown Hammond and downtown Warrenton.

The tribute procession will be in the evening so the most residents can participate. More details will be available in next week's Columbia Press and on the Spruce Up Warrenton Facebook page.

Procession to honor first responders



Unity Train comes to a neighborhood near you



Thursday, June 11, 2020

A grateful community is ready to show some love to local first responders on Wednesday, June 17.

The Unity Tribute Train, organized by Spruce Up Warrenton and the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce, includes a procession of fire trucks, police cars, Medix vans and more.

The procession will make its way through neighborhoods in Warrenton and Hammond.

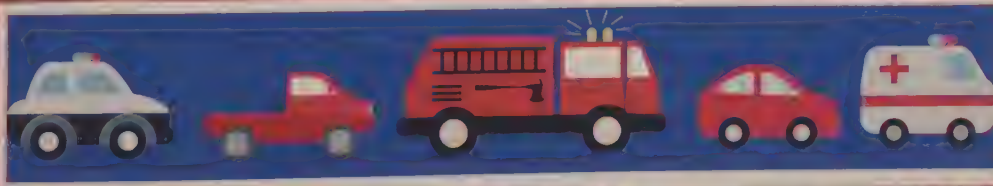
It's a way to help thank those who have been on the front lines fighting COVID-19. Residents on the route are encouraged to wave, cheer, or decorate their houses. Those driving to watch the procession can make signs or decorate their vehicles.

"The public is asked not to enter the street and not to hand anything to the procession participants," information from organizers states. "Procession participants are asked not to hand anything to the

public. Please social distance. ... Masks are encouraged."

Best places to view the procession: Warrenton High School, Warrenton Soccer Fields, Hammond Marina, and Warrenton Grade School.

The event begins at 6 p.m. from the high school and is expected to arrive at the soccer fields by 6:15, Hammond Marina by 6:45, and the grade school by 7:30. However, all the times are tentative.



Big drive for community unity



Charlie Mecham and his family cheer the procession of first responders as it passes them on Ridge Road. (Cindy Yingst)

By Cindy Yingst, Thursday, June 25, 2020

Dozens of people lined the streets of Warrenton Wednesday evening for a tribute to the area's first responders.

The Unity Tribute Train was a procession of Warrenton police officers and firefighters, Clatsop County Sheriff's deputies, medical workers from Life Flight, Medix, Columbia Memorial Hospital and Providence Seaside Hospital.

"We appreciate the support of our local police and first responders," said Charlie Mecham, who was waving a large American flag with his neighbors, family and friends on Ridge Road. "It's not an easy job and we sometimes take them for granted."

His neighbor, Mark Finkbeiner, is retired after 40 years in health care, 18 of them at CMH. "I just feel so bad for the health care workers, especially with people going out now and they're not being cautious."

The event was sponsored by Spruce Up Warrenton and the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce.



"More than anything, we're trying to recognize our first responders for all the work they've done during the virus – it has nothing to do with all the issues involved in Black Lives Matter or racism at all," said Warrenton City Commissioner Pam Ackley, a Spruce Up member. "We're honoring those who've been on the front line, who do all the work to help citizens and the community get through this pandemic."

Sheriff's Deputy Skip Brelsford said he appreciated feeling the love.

"I think it's good for the community. I volunteered to participate," he said. "I think the community is very supportive."

Deputy Tom Tussing agreed.

"That's the nice thing about living in a small community," Tussing said. "Everybody knows each other."

The Unity Tribute Train was a way for the community to show its appreciation for those on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19, said Kelsey Balensifer, event coordinator for Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce.

"Our first responders, medical personnel and essential workers are deserving of our deep thanks for their work during this health crisis."



A group on Ridge Road gets their flags and signs ready. (Cindy Yingst)

Building a better downtown

Volunteers, businesses tackle on property at a time

Members of Spruce Up Warrenton after installing planter boxes and topiaries at a business on Main Avenue. They are, left to right, Jim Dutcher, Lucinda Davis, Ken Davis, Brenda Hoxsey, Norm Hoxsey, and Carol Snell. (Kelsey Balensifer)

By Cindy Yingst, Thursday, August 6, 2020



A pandemic has slowed the economy nationwide but the pace of progress in Warrenton's downtown has quickened.

Business owners are polishing their facades, a new restaurant and a brewpub are opening, a walk-to-town apartment complex is nearly complete, and a group of volunteers has put a fresh face on everything. "I think it's crazy, but awesome that business development is still going on in Warrenton," Mayor Henry Balensifer said at Tuesday night's city commission meeting.

Spruce Up Warrenton, a grassroots group of volunteers, has built and installed flower boxes and hanging flower baskets on Main Avenue. Members have pulled weeds, pressure-washed sidewalks, and removed debris. The group visited every business owner last year, encouraging them to clean up and apply for façade grants paid for by their business license fees. Several businesses – a beauty salon, Sandridge Construction, Arnie's Café, owners of the historic Fenton grocery building -- have applied and received grants. "Spruce Up has become the bright spot in this community," Balensifer said. The group's latest project, topiary trees and cedar planter boxes full of flowers at Crossover Car Stereo, have brought a touch

of color to an otherwise dreary corner. "We want the people in Warrenton to take pride in their community," said Brenda Hoxsey, director of Spruce Up Warrenton. "We want to revitalize downtown Warrenton, make it pretty and make it so businesses want to come downtown as well as people would enjoy coming downtown." And it's not a gift to attract tourists. "Actually, it's more for the people who live here," Hoxsey said. The contributions of many made the planter project work. Abraham Honma, owner of Crossover Car Stereo, gave the group permission. Commissioner Rick Newton donated the cedar planks, Hoxsey's husband, Norm, designed the planters. Norm Hoxsey and Jim Dutcher built them. Carol Snell, Chris Bridgens, Ken and Lucinda Davis, Jeanne Smith, Dutcher and the Hoxseys cleaned up the block, installed the boxes and filled them with plants. Norm Hoxsey waters and tends to them every day. The group also has taken on Lighthouse Park at the four-way intersection. Owned by Deep Sea Fishermen's Benefit association, it includes a museum, gazebo, and landscaping. Spruce Up has pressure-washed the museum, outbuilding, gazebo, sidewalks, benches, and tables. The group painted the sign and gazebo, removed a problematic tree and is replacing it with a blue spruce, added low-growing shrubs around areas that have attracted transients and repaired the handrail leading to the museum entrance. When combined with the landscaping in front of the post office, paid for by urban renewal tax money, the downtown's main entrance has been transformed. Now Spruce Up Warrenton has moved on to Robinson Community Park, where it is paying \$9,475 for electrical boxes and lights at the snack shack and in the tennis area. Bogh Electric is donating some of the work, expected to be complete in September. The improvements mean as many as 16 food and other vendors can set up during festivals in the park.

How to help

To volunteer or to find out what's going on with Spruce Up Warrenton, visit their page on Facebook. Donations can be sent to Spruce Up Warrenton, P.O. Box 97, Warrenton OR 97146.

New landscaping at the four-way stop, along with improvements at Lighthouse Park across the street, have helped make the entrance to downtown more attractive. (Cindy Yingst)



A crew from Bayview Asphalt works on the pavement at the nearly complete Skipanon River Apartments, just north of the four-way stop in downtown Warrenton. (Cindy Yingst)

A little spruce-up

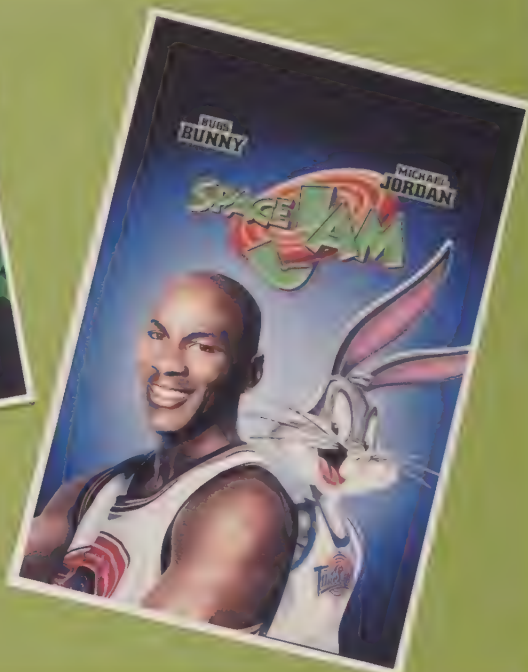


Thursday, August 27, 2020

Spruce Up Warrenton members Norm Hoxsey, left, and Jim Dutcher, along with Chris Connolly, who isn't shown, replaced the handrails at Lighthouse Park at the four-way stop. The volunteers have made improvements large and small throughout downtown in the past year.



Family movie night is this weekend



Friday, September 4, 2020

Spruce Up Warrenton is sponsoring a free community drive-in movie at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12. The 1996 family movie "Space Jam" is on tap with free popcorn, candy and water. Donations to help the volunteer group host more events in the future will be accepted. Gateway Community Church, 796 Pacific Drive, is allowing the group to use its gravel parking lot west of the church. Just 30 cars will be allowed due to social distancing requirements. Attendance is by registration only. See the Spruce Up Warrenton Facebook page for more information. Masks and social distancing will be required while using the restroom.

Thursday, September 10, 2020

Spruce Up Warrenton is sponsoring the event at 7:30 p.m. Saturday Sept. 12. Just 30 cars will be allowed to attend due to social distancing requirements. The movie will be shown in the parking lot of Gateway Community Church, 796 Pacific Drive, Hammond. "It 'sold out' within five hours of putting it up online," Mayor Henry Balensifer said. "In talking with folks across the nation, it doesn't really matter what the movie is... People just want to do something that gets them feeling closer to normal." The 1996 family film "Space Jam" will be shown. Popcorn, candy and drinks will be free. Donations will be accepted so the nonprofit group can hold more future events. To reserve a spot, visit Spruce Up Warrenton's Facebook page.

Seasonal show-offs



A huge skeleton graces the front of the historic Warren House on Skipanon Drive in Warrenton. (Cindy Yingst)

Thursday, October 15, 2020

Suddenly, scary things are everywhere.

Fall is bringing out the pumpkins, changing leaves and ... great decorations.

We'll feature more of these in the weeks ahead, but for now, take a drive by the Warren House, which has a choreographed light show and talking creatures.

Donations there will go to Spruce Up Warrenton.

And let us know of other events and frights.





HAPPY HALLOWEEN



BOO!

TRICK
TREAT

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



2020's downtown light sparkle bright



South Main Avenue looking south from the four-way stop (Cindy Yingst)

Friday, December 11, 2020

Downtown Warrenton is a sight to behold this year with more twinkly lights and decorated storefronts than ever before.

Spruce Up Warrenton volunteers and others have spent many hours putting up decorations and lighted banners across the streets.

Not to be missed is Lighthouse Park at Main Avenue and Harbor Drive, owned by the Deep Sea Fishermen's Benefit Fund; Sandridge Construction and the vacant lot next to it, which are across from Warrenton City Hall; and the first two blocks of South Main Avenue.

Several downtown homes also are gussied up.

And don't forget the Warren House, two blocks north of the four-way stop on Skipanon Drive. Mike and Teale Adelmann have a choreographed musical light show at the historical home, which can be heard on your car's radio.

If you're still in the mood, there's a live-streamed holiday concert tonight put together by Columbia River Symphony.

On the bill are the Astoria Tuba Quartet, David Drury, North Coast Choral and North Oregon Coast Symphony.

To listen online, go to columbiariversymphony.org at 7 p.m.



BURR



Iconic Easter memories

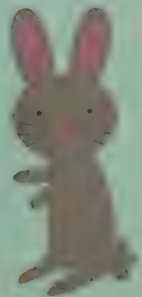
Thursday, April 8, 2021

About 300 children participated in an Easter egg hunt at Robinson Community Park on April 3. The event, sponsored by Spruce Up Warrenton, divided children into several age categories and cordoned off areas of the park reserved specifically for each age group.



EASTER EGG

HUNT



CEDR Awards 2021

Thank you to everyone who came out to the CEDR Awards to honor some incredible busine... See More



Business and community leaders honored

Thursday, May 27, 2021

Businesses and individual leaders throughout Clatsop County received accolades from a group that bolsters small businesses.

Innovation inspired by COVID brought the awards ceremony to each worksite **this** year. The worksite visits were filmed and can be viewed online at the Facebook page for CEDR, Clatsop Economic Development Resources.

Winners from Warrenton included Spruce Up Warrenton, TLC credit union, Hampton Lumber, and Ray Graves, owner of fishing vessel Ken & Al Inc. There were 17 winners in all from throughout the county.

Two non-businesses were given the Business Community Supporter Award: Providence Seaside Hospital and Spruce Up Warrenton.

"We started this group with volunteers about three years ago with 14 people; we have 55 now," Spruce Up Director Brenda Hoxsey said as she and other members accepted the award in front of the fisherman statue at Warrenton Marina, which the group donated to the city.

"We have more donations, more activities, we're able to do more improvements," Hoxsey said. "We're just trying to help the community, beautify it and make it a nice place for the people that live here."



"Pamper Me" Gift Basket

Silent Auction

Need the perfect Mother's Day gift? Like a little competition? SUW has you covered. We are auctioning off a basket filled with gift certificates and products worth over \$1400 and sure to make any mother feel extra special.

Items included

2 Night Stay at The Astoria Riverwalk Inn. She will be relaxing in no time in her Premium King room with wrap around balcony and beautiful view of the Marina. Worth \$600

1 Hour Massage from Janae at VALUE OF TOUCH \$80

Casual Elegance \$25 Gift Certificate (to be used towards a haircut)

Casual Elegance \$20 Gift Certificate (for wax treatment)

Tee Tree Hair Products Gift Set (donated by Casual Elegance) \$30

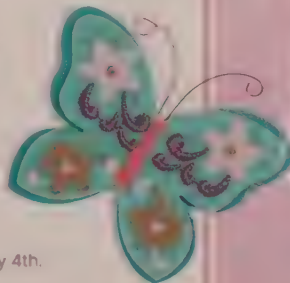
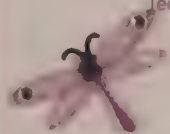
Beyond Nails and Pedi Spa \$60 Gift Certificate

NW Style Loft Salon and Boutique \$45 Gift Certificate

Clipper Station \$10 Gift Certificate (for 2 free tans)

\$20 Human Bean Gift Card

And much more that's sure to take her breath away!



Silent Auction starts April 17th and closes at midnight on May 4th.

Good Luck!

(Only Paypal or cash can be taken at this time)

Group unveils plan for a new Warrenton park



A group of residents proposes turning this grassy lot behind City Hall into a public park.
(Cindy Yingst)

By Cindy Yingst, Thursday, June 3, 2021

A group of Warrenton residents want to turn a vacant downtown lot owned by the city of Warrenton into a community gathering place with a gazebo, picnic tables, corn-hole games. "I know people need a vision to understand where we're wanting to go, but obviously things can be changed up," Jeanne Smith told city commissioners Tuesday night. Smith is co-owner of Main Street Market and a member of Spruce Up Warrenton. She has been the driving force behind the annual harvest festivals and several other downtown events. She presented a drawing of what a park could look like in the vacant lot, which is directly behind City Hall and north of the building that houses Ohana Media and Soar With Us day care. "We have this vision of putting a gazebo (there) ... and having a community gathering place, maybe for weddings and concerts there in the future," Spruce Up Director Brenda Hoxsey said. "That's our vision, to spruce up that area." The group has received an offer for at least a

A drawing of what the park could include



partial donation of the gazebo, she said. City leaders have pondered what to do with the lot, considered prime real estate. A parking lot, an apartment complex and a park all have been bandied about. "I'm not opposed to this project in any way, other than it's coming to us kind of out of the blue," City Manager Linda Engbretson said. "I will say that personally, I see their vision. I like what they're doing. Basically, we'd be creating a whole new park that's not in any plan that we have." Commissioners listened to the group's ideas. Most were encouraging, but cautious. "We have a real hard time taking care of the parks we've already created," Commissioner Mark Baldwin said. The city does not have a parks department with separate staff dedicated toward mowing and maintenance. "These projects look so simple, and they're not," Commissioner Rick Newton said. His Kiwanis Club was willing to put \$50,000 toward a park splash pad for children, but there were too many reasons why he couldn't make it happen, he said. "This definitely needs to be vetted through the advisory process," Mayor Henry Balensifer said. "I like your idea. Pitch it to the Parks Advisory Board and we'll reconvene after we get a recommendation on that. We're not turning this down per se, we just need to go through the regular process."

Fisherman statue dedicated at marina office



City officials and members of Spruce Up Warrenton stand with the statue dedicated June 2 at Warrenton Marina. They are, left to right, Brenda Hoxsey, Jim Dutcher, Mayor Henry Balensifer, Lucinda Davis, Norm Hoxsey, Ken Davis, Lori Beth Kulp, Commissioner Rick Newton, and City Manager Linda Engbretson. (Cindy Yingst)

Thursday, June 10, 2021

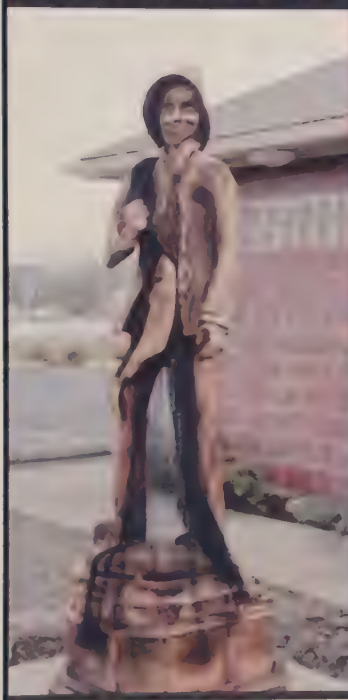
A sculpture dedicated Wednesday at Warrenton Marina honors members of the fishing industry, which has brought countless economic benefits to the city. The sculpture was installed earlier this spring, but the dedication was postponed due to the pandemic. "We are proud of what we've accomplished during a bad year," said Brenda Hoxsey, chair of Spruce Up Warrenton, a group of grassroots volunteers that commissioned and donated the sculpture to the city. The piece was created by chainsaw artist and woodworker Konlim Bokor of Original Roots Carving. The cedar log was donated by Gil Gramson and Luke Ness. Landscaping was added outside the marina office, where the sculpture has stood since March. Four crab pots and other fishing implements complete the display. "We did have one (crab pot) stolen, but police recognized him on the security camera and we got it back," Hoxsey said during the dedication. Spruce Up members Jim Dutcher and Norm Hoxsey have been oiling the sculpture to ensure it doesn't split. The group also showed off equipment for four electrical "spider boxes" donated by electrician Tony Bogh, which the group is donated to the city. They can be used at the fish and farmer's market, the harvest festival and for other events. "The statue will stand for generations, welcoming our visitors," City Manager Linda Engretson said. Henry Balensifer said he was honored to be mayor of a city with volunteers like those working with Spruce Up Warrenton. "Our city runs on volunteers," he said. "That's not a bad thing. It's a necessity." A metal sculpture of two children reading books will be dedicated at Warrenton Community Library at 2 p.m. June 12. The metal sculptures were made by Pacific Fabrication and are a joint gift to the city by Spruce Up and Commissioner Rick Newton.



Spruce Up Warrenton

Published by Jeanne Smith • February 25 •

From a cedar log to a masterpiece. Thank you to Konlim Bokor of Original Roots Carving Chainsaw Art and Woodwork, for creating this work of art and to Gil Gramson and Luke Ness for donating the log to make this creation possible. The statue can be found at the Warrenton Marina by the office building of the Harbor Master, Jane Sweet. The Harbor Master plans on landscaping the area around the statue. Spruce Up Warrenton will have a dedication ceremony as soon as the landscaping is completed.



SPECIAL THANKS TO
SPRUCE UP WARRENTON

2020

BY KONLIM BOKOR
ORIGINAL ROOTS CHAINSAW ART

WELCOME TO THE
WARRENTON MARINA

861-3822

VHF 16

TACKLE TIME



'Readers' sculpture to be dedicated

Thursday, June 10, 2021

The public is invited to a brief artwork dedication ceremony at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 12, at Warrenton Community Library, 160 S. Main Ave.

The stainless steel metal sculptures of a little boy and girl reading books were made by Pacific Fabrication and donated by Commissioner Rick Newton and Spruce Up Warrenton.

The sculptures are one of many projects Spruce Up has contributed to downtown Warrenton. In the past week, the group has revitalized the sign in front of Warrenton Fire Department and planted flowers at El Compadre Restaurant and City Hall.



Finding fun ways to celebrate Fourth of July

Thursday, July 1, 2021



After 16 months of life-altering COVID restrictions, Clatsop County residents are ready to party. Local cities and community groups are getting together to ensure a grand celebration of the nation's 245th birthday.

Warrenton residents will see a return of the city's traditional old-fashioned Fourth of July parade after last year's pandemic-predicated hiatus. However, the car show, firefighters' barbecue and other events won't make a comeback until 2022.

"Parade planning is going great," Parade Director Mike Moha said. "We have well over 50 entries already and ... the final few days we usually get another surge. I have heard nothing but excitement from everybody about the parade. The people are ready."

The parade used to be organized by the city's Warrenton Business Association, but the City Commission disbanded the group about two years ago. The parade now is organized by Spruce Up Warrenton.

Spruce Up "has worked hard in a short amount of time to get this going," Moha said.

Entries range from children's groups, decorated wagons, the Astoria Clowns, pageant winners, classic cars, and local businesses.

"The weather looks nice, so I am expecting another great year," he said.

The parade begins at 3 p.m. and runs along South Main Avenue from the post office to Ninth Street. At Ninth, the parade heads west to its end at Warrenton Grade School.

To be in the parade, request an application at warrentonfourthofjuly@gmail.com or find one under the "news and announcements" section on the city's website, ci.warrenton.or.us.

This year's parade theme is "Celebrate!"

WARRENTON'S
ANNUAL
4TH OF JULY
PARADE
3:00

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK/SPRUCE UP WARRENTON FOR MORE INFORMATION





Spruce Up Warrenton

Published by Jeanne Smith · 11h ·

11h

We are back with more goodies for you, \$1500 worth. Starting July 8th-July 31st you have the opportunity to bid on The "Summer Time" Silent Auction basket.

Treat yourself to a 2 Night Stay at The Astorian Riverwalk Inn. Relax and fall asleep in your premier luxurious king room with a private wrap around balcony overlooking the Columbia River Marina and wake up to a Deluxe Continental Breakfast. Valued at \$600

Take 6 of your friends (18 or older) on your choice of a boat ride, crabbing trip, or a salmon fishing trip aboard a 35' boat on the Columbia River with Captain Chris Martin at the helm. (Wheelchair accessible). Valued at \$650

Courtesy of Wauna Credit Union, you will receive a gift certificate to Englund Marine & Industrial Supply, "a go-to store for marine, boating, fishing, RV and industrial products for commercial and recreational fishermen, professional tradesmen and weekend warriors". Valued at \$250

Total Basket Value \$1500

Auction ends July 31st.

Click on the Online: form.JotForm link to place your bid or if you don't want to bid but would like to make a contribution to Spruce Up Warrenton, use the same link to make a donation.

SUMMER TIME SILENT AUCTION



Mayor's Message: Some of July's changes were good. Very good.

By the Mayor, Brian Alsbury, August 6, 2008

July was an interesting month. A very different month. Yet there are two things I'm happy to announce.

The first is that Spruce Up Warrenton is still moving forward on downtown improvements. The second is that we continue to see greater efficiency with our fire department and burn permits will now be annual.

Spruce Up Warrenton is our Main Street Program. Their work has improved our town greatly and I hear positive feedback from folks every week. They just finished some planter boxes downtown, and pressure-washed the lighthouse at the four-way intersection.

They also will be improving the electrical systems at Quincy Robinson Park in anticipation of future events. They are dedicated volunteers who haven't stopped improving the town despite all that's going on.

Fire Chief Brian Alsbury has been working tirelessly to figure out how to do more with less and he's come up with a new process that melds safety with constituent feedback. We've been told many times that people are tired of calling in their burn permits every time they light up, and having to get a permit every month.

Due to staffing and technology, even calling in a permit didn't accomplish what we'd wanted after 5 p.m. or on weekends. People wanted to get a one-and-done permit on an annual basis.

So now, when you get a burn permit, you apply and the fire department will inspect your burn location to provide safety suggestions and ensure it meets the national fire code. Once the inspection passes (they're pretty simple) you will have a burn permit for one year.

Additionally, all you have to do is call to see what burn restrictions are in effect — you don't have to give out your permit number and address like before. We're working on seeing if we can put that information online as well, so you don't have to call in too, but that's not yet in effect.

Times are stressful, that's for sure. But let's commit as a city to ensuring we be kind to each other, patient with our friends and family, and vote our consciences in this upcoming election.

Letter to the Editor: Thanks for making event a success

By David R. WAGG, Warrenton City Commissioner, Thursday, October 29, 2009

Organizers of Warrenton's Drive-in Movie night would like to thank the following sponsors and those who donated to make the evening a success.

Thank you to Gateway Community Church for use of the parking lot and restrooms; Dale and Janelle Adams, who let us project the movie on their building; Main Street Market, which donated all the candy; the Van Dusen Family, who donated the Aquafina; Mike Moha, who donated the popcorn; and a special thank you to Astoria Underground Tours and Jeff Daly, for being our tech guru and projecting the film for us, along with his assistant, Ray Merritt.

The event was free to attendees, a gift to the community from Spruce Up Warrenton and the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce. Cash donations also were received from Rick Newton, attendees, and others.

Those who helped with traffic control were Sylvia Stevens and Brian Dennon of Warrenton's CERT, Community Emergency Response Team; Helen Tessler, Ken Davis, Jim Dutcher, Norm Hoxsey, Kelsey Balensifer, Jeanne Smith, and Brenda Hoxsey.

Mike Moha and his son made the best popcorn in town and it was delivered hot to the cars.

Letter to the Editor: Thanks for holiday decorations

By Rick Newton, Warrenton City Commissioner, Thursday, January 21, 2023

I wanted to reach out and thank the people who provided Warrenton with the many holiday decorations.

Spruce Up Warrenton played a very important role in this project, as well as Pat O'Grady with his bucket truck, the help provided by Mike Moha, the help of the people from Pacific Power, and those people not named who came to help.

One of the Warrenton Commission's goals is livability, and this effort certainly works toward that goal. Thank you all.

Mayor's Message: Community provides attitude of gratitude

By Harry Greenlee III,

Warrenton Mayor

This was the hardest Mayor's Message I've ever had to compose.

These are difficult days, and it's tough to know what to say. I'm not going to write a snow job on how wonderful this season is, or some admonishment to stay away from each other that everyone has heard a million times by now.

Instead, I'm going to write about Warrenton and what we've got going for us.

We've got great residents, who are caring for their neighbors and families.

We've got great teachers, who are doing all they can to navigate this messy time for learning.

We've got great city workers, who are ensuring the toilets flush and water is clean, among other things.

We've got great volunteer firefighters, who show up to answer medical calls and put out fires.

We've got great entrepreneurs, who are venturing to build new lives and businesses in our town — or are finding creative ways to continue serving our community during this time.

We've got the volunteers of Spruce Up Warrenton, who continue to brighten up our city with their energy and ideas.

In short, we've got people like YOU.

You are what make Warrenton the place I'm proud to call home. You are what makes Warrenton special. You are why I find being mayor rewarding.

Thank you for being a Warrentonian — and, by extension, my neighbor.











SEE
Christmas
LIGHTS



City of Warrenton
Christmas Tree Lighting

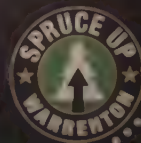
Lighthouse Museum Park

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH
CHRISTMAS CAROLING,
FREE HOT CHOCOLATE & COOKIES,
AND PHOTO OPS WITH SANTA



MUSIC WILL START AT 3:30
LIGHTING AT 4:01
DON'T FORGET YOUR
CAMERA!

Sponsored by WBA



2ND ANNUAL

TRUNK
-OR-
TREAT

OCTOBER 31st
1-3

WARRENTON CITY PARK

SPONSORED BY
WARRENTON LOCAL BUSINESSES

Hosted By



JOIN US FOR WARRENTON'S 1ST ANNUAL

Easter Egg Hunt!

April 3rd

11:00 to 3:00

**WARRENTON
CITY PARK**

300 SW ALDER AVE.



Hunt Times By Age

11:00

Chicks (0-4)

12:00

Peeeps (5-7)

1:00

Jelly Beans (8-10)

2:00

Cotton Tails (Special needs)

*Bring Your Camera
Take A Picture
With
The Easter Bunny*

**Pre-registration
is required**

**Click on the events link at
Facebook/Spruce Up Warrenton**

**Or go to
form.jotform.com/210547252332144**



WARRENTON'S ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY PARADE

3:00

PARADE ROUTE:

Along Main Ave.

From the Post Office to 9th St,
Ending at
Warrenton Grade School



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK/SPRUCE UP WARRENTON FOR MORE INFORMATION

Fisherman Statue and Spider Boxes Dedication

"Our city runs on volunteers. Its great to see how much Warrenton has turned a corner in the last 3 years since Spruce Up Warrenton has been involved with our city. You have been the force driving policy changes with nuisancing. That's how it all really started if you remember right. Coming to Mayor's coffee gosh darn it. We want this, and well you know, and finally you got your way and we realized how much that energized people in our town. And it was that seed that got us going. And so, this is an exciting movement moving forward. We have this beautiful statue that will be welcoming people to our marina and also the spider boxes. This critical piece of infrastructure was the missing component that is going to make the events that the Commission and Spruce Up Warrenton want to have in our city possible. One of the limiting factors we had was powering infrastructures and being able to distribute it. And I just want to thank everyone involved with this. This, just like volunteers, you don't always see them but you always see the results and you don't appreciate it until it's gone. I want to make sure we recognize you guys because we never want you to leave, we never want you to be gone. I am so honored to be a Mayor of a city with volunteers like you, that started from the ground up, that have engaged with the city and made us a better city. You make us better. You complete us so to speak. I know that sounds trite but it's true and I can't thank you enough."

Henry Balensifer
Mayor

"I'm happy to celebrate this perfect day out here at the marina and thank all these volunteers for all they do for Warrenton and I wanted to start with one of my favorite quotes regarding volunteers, the Author being Elizabeth Andrews. "Volunteers may not necessarily have the time, they just have the heart." This is so true so true about Spruce Up Warrenton and what they do for Warrenton. The Spider boxes are going to come in so handy and really promote activities in Warrenton, so thank you so much. The statue will stand for generations, welcoming our visitors, marina customers and citizens to the beautiful marina and enhance their memory of their time spent here. Thank you to the artist for his vision and Spruce Up's vision for recognizing this important industry and the impact of the fishing community in our town. So I will end with another of my favorite quotes which is all too true. This is anonymous. Volunteers are not paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless. Thank you everyone for everything you do for Warrenton."

Linda Engbretson
City Manager



Brenda Hoxsey <brendahox@gmail.com>

info

2 messages

Rick Newton <rick@eyeofnewt.net>

To: Brenda Hoxsey <brendahox@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 11, 2021 at 5:50 PM

Hope both of you are doing well.

One thing I didn't tell you last night at the meeting was how rewarding it is for me personally to get to work with people like you who want to get things done; no ego or political bullshit getting in the way. You and Norm did a great job of leading a volunteer group during the SUW formation; and successfully leading a volunteer group is far different than running paid staff. I put SUW, and you, in for the CEDR award because you/they certainly had earned it.

Rick Newton



Brenda Hoxsey of Spruce Up Warrenton receives the Business Community Supporter Award from Kevin Leahy at Warrenton Marina. Her husband, Norm, and Commissioner Rick Newton look on

September 2021



Spruce Up Warrenton founders Brenda and Norm Hoxsey work on the sign for the Hammond Fire Station. They also renovated the Warrenton station's sign.

Spruce Up leader passes title along

Brenda Hoxsey, the driving force behind the startup of Spruce Up Warrenton, officially retired from her volunteer position last week.

She chose to step down as director for health reasons, but will remain active in the volunteer group, she said.

She was honored during the group's July 15 meeting with pizza, cake and a scrapbook showing all the completed projects and recognitions she has received. Hoxsey and her husband, Norm, organized the grassroots group as a way to improve the downtowns of Warrenton and Hammond.

The group has participated in city cleanup of blighted properties, planted flowers, weeded, picked up trash, dedicated statues, pressure-washed sidewalks, and helped businesses spruce up.

Jeanne Smith, co-owner of Main Street Market, will serve as the group's new director.

"I am truly honored and look forward to continuing to



Brenda Hoxsey, center, and other members at a planting event.

work with her and all of you on current and future projects," Smith said. "Norm and (Brenda) have worked very

hard on creating and growing such an amazing organization that has done so much for the town."

September 3, 2021

THE COLUMBIA PRESS

Spruce Up recruiting new volunteers

Spruce Up Warrenton seeks people interested in improving the town.

The group's volunteers are responsible for the wooden fisherman statue at Warrenton Marina, flower planter boxes, banners and fresh coats of paint.

Spruce Up Warrenton is a community-based action organization that's part of the Main Street Oregon program. Its mission is to develop and promote revitalization and beautification within the context of cultural and historic preservation in downtown Warrenton and the district of Hammond.

The Main Street Approach is facilitated through committees that focus on certain goals and action areas, including bringing the community together to build consensus, positioning downtown as a center of community activity, and working with property owners to enhance downtown's physical appearance.

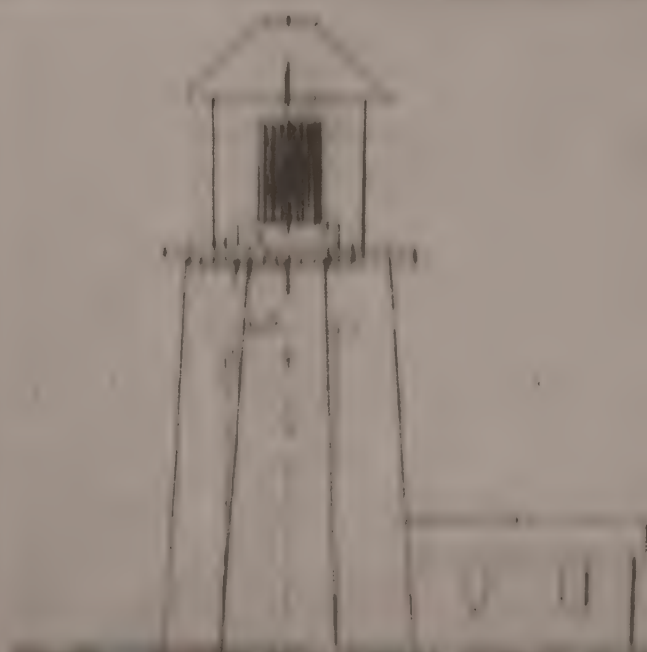
The group has several committees and needs people to help support specific projects, such as watering downtown planters, decorating for the holidays, removing litter and weeds, and organizing and staffing events.

To participate, contact Chair Jeanne Smith at spruceupwarrenton@gmail.com or follow the group on Facebook.

Participants can be involved as much or little as desired -- helping with a one-time event or attending monthly meetings.



Fire Chief Brian Alsbury uses a bucket truck to help Spruce Up install its new summer banners along Main Avenue.



HOXLEY POINT LIGHTHOUSE

the Astorian

DailyAstorian.com // TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023



Photos by Lydia Ely/The Astorian

Brenda Hoxsey shows a picture of one of the houses Spruce Up Warrenton wants to fix up while Norm Hoxsey looks on.

Spruce Up Warrenton helps clean up nuisance properties

Couple formed the nonprofit to help improve the city

By **ETHAN MYERS**
The Astorian

WARRENTON — Norm and Brenda Hoxsey went before the City Commission several years ago to complain about some rough looking and potentially unsafe properties near their home.

The city encouraged the couple to see if they could solve some of the cleanup on their own.

The challenge was accepted and Spruce Up Warrenton — a nonprofit started by the Hoxseys that seeks to beautify the city — was born.

The city, with the nonprofit's help, has repaired and cleaned up a number of nuisance properties since that first exchange. After taking a break due to the coronavirus pandemic and several changes within the city's planning department, nuisance properties are once again becoming a focus.

"Since (that meeting), we've cleaned up a lot of properties with the assistance of the city, or the city has cleaned up a lot of properties with our assistance, however you want to put it," Norm Hoxsey said. "But what our mission is, is to get a cleaned-up town ... and we've gone to meetings trying to generate these types of cleanups."

'This is a danger'

The Hoxseys returned before the City Commission in late September



Plants are seen growing inside a house on S. Main Avenue.

with several properties they would like to see cleaned up.

Among the properties Hoxsey mentioned was a structure on S. Main Avenue and Ninth Street. While vacant, it is filled with old collectibles and has a failing roof.

"This is a danger. This is a disaster," Hoxsey told commissioners. "This needs to be knocked down, and not just the one portion of it, the whole works. If there is anything of value in it, which I doubt there is, I think it should be cleaned up, taken out and let's get rid of it. Driving through town, it's a mess, just a total mess."

Also high on the list were a worn-down warehouse on S. Main Avenue and a tripecta in Hammond: the old post office, a house and a shop formerly known as Rosalie's, which is surrounded by large, metal storage containers.

"Like (Norm) said, the properties have been like this for quite a while," Commissioner Gerald Poe said. "They do stand out."

During the meeting, several commissioners mentioned other properties — both commercial and residential — that needed work. Between commissioners, opinions varied on which properties were salvageable and which needed more extensive repair, but they all agreed it has become a serious issue for the city.

"There isn't a crime in being poor, but there is a crime in being lazy, especially if you are on Main Street, in my opinion," Commissioner Mark Baldwin said. "I am busy, busy, busy — but I still do the best I can with my property."

City Manager Linda Engbretson

See Spruce Up, Page A3

THE ASTORIAN • TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021

Spruce Up: 'It's like everybody kind of pitches in and does good'

Continued from Page A1

noted that in the past, the city was more aggressive when dealing with nuisance properties and received guidance to adjust the tactics.

The city is working to improve several properties across town, but the process can be challenging, Engbretson said.

Several commissioners felt that properties that either presented safety issues or could help maximize commercial growth should be prioritized.

"I know of businesses that would like to go into Hammond that can't go into Hammond because there's no available real estate," Mayor Henry Balensifer told *The Astorian*. The locations with potential for new business, he said, are not available due to the properties or structures being unfit.

The mayor recognized that nuisance properties can have a wide-ranging and negative impact.

"Same with housing stock," Balensifer said. "If houses in the city are allowed to atrophy, then that's a reduction of housing stock available to either renters or long-term owners."

"So the problem is figuring out the clearest ones, and then prioritizing the rest, because we're still understaffed, we're still trying to move through the process and it'll take some time to clear them. But some of the properties are also pretty bad — those will take a little bit more effort."

Keeping track

Moving forward, the city plans to team up the City Commission and the Planning Commission with Spruce Up to keep track of nuisance properties.

The Hoxseys — and



Photos by Lydia Ely/*The Astorian*

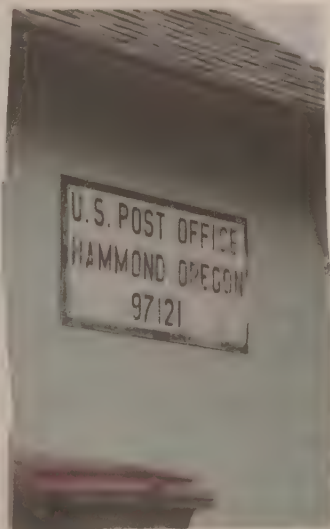
ABOVE: Items are piled outside a house on S. Main Avenue. **RIGHT:** The old post office in Hammond is one of the buildings Spruce Up Warrenton is focusing on.

the other volunteers within Spruce Up — have worked with Commissioner Tom Dyer in the past to assist with labor.

While Spruce Up may not be involved in pressing property owners to clean up their properties, the Hoxseys believe they shine a light on problematic places and attempt to hold the city accountable for taking care of them.

"What we found is if we clean up one property, the neighbors kind of clean up, too," Brenda Hoxsey said. "In that way, it's been really positive. I think that there's just a real strong bond between Spruce Up Warrenton, the city, the city planners and the people that live in the neighborhood."

"It's like everybody kind of pitches in and does good."



'WHAT WE FOUND IS IF WE CLEAN UP ONE PROPERTY, THE NEIGHBORS KIND OF CLEAN UP, TOO. IN THAT WAY, IT'S BEEN REALLY POSITIVE. I THINK THAT THERE'S JUST A REAL STRONG BOND BETWEEN SPRUCE UP WARRENTON, THE CITY, THE CITY PLANNERS AND THE PEOPLE THAT LIVE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.'



The members of Spruce Up Warrenton and their families would like to thank the following Participants, Sponsors, Vendors and Volunteers for making the 2021 Warrenton Fall Festival and Trunk-or-Treat such a huge success

- * Arbonne- Kelly Smith
- * Astoria Chamber of Commerce
- * Astoria Ford
- * Astoria Lions Club
- * Astoria Parks and Recreation
- * Astoria Soap
- * Beach Thyme Catering
- * Bogh Electric
- * Carrie Santos
- * Casual Elegance
- * Christopher Furniss
- * Cindy Johnson
- * Clatsop County Special Olympics
- * Clatsop County Sheriff's Office
- * Columbia Bank
- * Cowan Custom Finishing
- * Daniel Sturgell 3D Landscaping
- * Dave Nygaard-Nygaard Logging
- * Denise and Chris Connolly
- * Farmers Insurance-Darlene Warren Agency
- * First Steps Center for autism and developmental disabilities
- * Fishstix
- * Forest Fox Designs "For The Love Of Nails- Kristina Sohler
- * Fort Clatsop District Scouts
- * Fort Stevens VFW Post 10580 & Auxiliary
- * Friends of Warrenton Community Library
- * Galtano's Pizza Warrenton
- * Fur & Feathers 4-H Club
- * Gideon's Inn
- * Glass Gargoyles
- * Hilltop Church of the Nazarene
- * Jewell School Dist
- * Kacey Hatt
- * Kim Schell
- * Kowanus Club of Warrenton
- * Knotty and Knautical
- * Laura Phelps
- * Local Boy Grindr
- * Made by Julie
- * Main St Market
- * Medix Ambulance Service
- * Mememaw Makes
- * N/M Travel
- * Ocean Crest Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac
- * ODOG
- * Original Meemaw Swaddle
- * Pacific Seafood
- * Pig Feathers Farm and Gift
- * Ribs By Rob
- * Scentsy-Jamie Daniels
- * The City Of Warrenton
- * Sonna Vitality
- * The Astorian
- * The Columbia Press
- * Trey Bros
- * Trina & Rons
- * Tyler McGroarty
- * USC Sector Columbia River Center
- * Warrenton Baptist Church
- * Warrenton Fire Dep
- * Warrenton High School
- * Warrenton H.S. Key Club
- * Warrenton H.S. Cheer
- * Warrenton H.S. Football
- * Warrenton
- * Warrenton Police
- * Warrenton Prep
- * Warrenton Press
- * Warrenton H
- * Wild Goose
- * Wrap It Up! Knit, Crochet, and More

"Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much"

-Helen Keller

January 14, 2022

For next year's Christmas



Photo by Rick Newton

Members of Spruce Up Warrenton receive two large boxes of Christmas decorations donated by the Kiwanis Club of Warrenton. Pictured are Spruce Up members, left-right, Brenda Hoxsey, Lori Beth Kulp, Mike Moha, and Norm Hoxsey. The volunteer-based group installed holiday decorations in the downtowns of Warrenton and Hammond in December.



Don Frank Photography

Award winners, left to right, are Chris Laman, Kevin Leahy, Janet Bowler, Judi Lampi, and Norm and Brenda Hoxsey.

The Hoxseys win annual AWACC award

The Columbia Press

Spruce Up Warrenton founders Brenda and Norm Hoxsey won the Richard Ford Distinguished Service Award at the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce annual banquet on Saturday.

"(It) goes to a couple who understand the true meaning of service," Mayor Henry Balensifer said in announcing the winners. "Our community's own Spruce Up Warrenton committee owes much of its existence and early success to them and their community spirit."

Brenda Hoxsey is a "master organizer of people," Balensifer said. Norm Hoxsey is a "driving force for property cleanups."

Together the couple have rounded up a posse of volunteers responsible for turning blighted areas of downtown into nice places for gathering, eating and shopping. Spruce Up Warrenton has sponsored communi-

See 'Awards' on Page 4



Don Frank Photography

Norm and Brenda Hoxsey received the Ford Award from Warrenton Mayor Henry Balensifer.

Chamber recognizes business and community leaders

Annual event celebrates the best of local outreach

By ABBEY McDONALD
The Astorian

On Saturday night, business leaders flocked to the Clatsop County Fairgrounds, some opting for waist-length crab bibs over semi-formal attire.

The 149th annual meeting and banquet for the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce recognized the community service work of businesses and individuals this past year.

David Reid, the chamber's executive director, wearing a royal-blue railroad conductors' uniform to follow the event's theme of "back on track," said he was excited to be back in person after holding the event virtually last year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The event had a lower capacity of 130 people, spaced out among a greater number of tables.

All went quiet for the main event, which were awards for outstanding community service.

First up was the Board President's Award, selected by 2021 president Lois Perdue, and awarded to Bridge-water Bistro for their help with the Great Columbia Crossing and communication throughout the pandemic.

Next was the Ambassador's Choice Award, which went to Hampton Lumber for its infrastructure projects, forest management and employment in the area.

Lindsay Davis, Hampton's outreach specialist and stewardship coordinator, said the award was a surprise and an honor.

"We are so grateful to have had such an impact on the community, because it's had such an impact on us," she said.

The Richard Ford Distinguished Service Award went to Brenda and Norm Hoxsey, of Spruce Up Warrenton, which cleaned up over



Photos by Abbey McDonald/The Astorian

Kevin Leahy was recognized with the George Award for his work in the community.



Chamber award winners pose for a group photo. From left, Chris Laman, Lindsay Davis, Kevin Leahy, Janet Bowler, Judi Lampi, Norm Hoxsey and Brenda Hoxsey.

70 properties last year. The pair also worked to revitalize downtown Warrenton and clean up local trails and parks.

"While Spruce Up Warrenton is full of active persons, many deserving credit, these two were directly responsible for the formation and continual expansion of work by Spruce Up Warrenton and the outsized impact of their work over the past few years makes them the obvious choice for this most prestigious of awards," Warrenton Mayor Henry Balensifer said.

Astoria Mayor Bruce Jones presented the first of two George Awards for community service, selected by both the city and the chamber.

Judi Lampi and Janet Bowler received an award for their near six-year effort to build the Astoria Nordic Heritage Park. They received a standing ovation, and

Bowler called it a "shocking surprise."

"We're proud to be a part of our community," said Lampi, who added that their work would not have been possible without the 866 people who donated over \$1.5 million toward the project.

Former state Sen. Betsy Johnson, who is making an independent bid for governor, presented the final George Award to someone she said she consulted with repeatedly in her work, and that she considers a personal friend.

Kevin Leahy, the director of the Small Business Development Center and Clatsop Economic Development Resources, had a bounce in his step as he approached the stage to another standing ovation.

"Growing up in this community, and looking at the names of who have won before, it's just an honor," said Leahy, who called his

work in community development his dream job.

He said the award was especially meaningful to him coming from Johnson, and in front of a room full of friends and colleagues.

The final award of the night, the Applause Award, went to Chris Laman, the director of pharmacy and cancer center services at Columbia Memorial Hospital.

"His organizational skills, his knowledge of complex medical challenges, his calm leadership, and just his unflappable charm turned little old Clatsop County's vaccine rollout into a model for our entire state," Johnson said.

Afterward, Laman praised the work of over 300 volunteers that put the county in the upper rungs of state vaccination rates.

"Without the whole community coming together, we wouldn't have been able to do what we did," he said

Awards: Three Astorians win George Award

Continued from Page 1

ty events, cleanups, trail improvements and more.

"They have been behind the renaissance and revitalization of Warrenton's downtown," Balensifer said.

The couple were tricked into attending the banquet when current Spruce Up Warrenton Director Jeanne Smith told them she couldn't attend because she and her husband had to be out of town.

"It was a real surprise and a real honor," Brenda said.

"But, you know, there are 14 or 15 people who do as much or more than we do."

They felt humbled by all the nice things said about them that night.

"I had heard of the Richard Ford award before, but hadn't realized who he was or what he had done," she said.

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The award is named for Richard Ford, who served as

the city's building inspector and fire chief and who was a tireless volunteer on behalf of the community. The Ford Award serves as a citizen of the year award for the city of Warrenton.

About 130 people attended the annual meeting, banquet and awards ceremony held at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds.

GEORGE AWARDS

Astoria also has a top award for citizens who get things done, the George Award.

This year's George Award winners are Judi Lampi and Janet Bowler of the Astoria Nordic Heritage Park, and Kevin Leahy, director of the Small Business Development Center at Clatsop Community College.

"They didn't just 'let George do it,'" (a reference to how the award got its name), Astoria Mayor Bruce Jones said of Lampi and Bowler. "Each of them in their own right has a long history of getting good things done — of doing the work that needs to happen without hesitation or complaint."

Together the women have shepherded a six-year historical park project to near completion, overseeing more than \$1.5 million in donations, Jones said.

"Together they helped make the soon-to-be-completed Nordic Heritage Park a beautiful, educational, and moving tribute to generations of brave, hard-working immigrants who helped make Astoria the unique and special place it is today," he said.

Leahy and the team he has built "have generated and preserved millions of dollars in local economic development and are responsible for new and saved jobs by the hundreds," former state Sen. Betsey Johnson said in

Continued on next page

Awards: Hampton Lumber among recipients

Continued from Page 4

announcing the third George Award winner.

"When he's not out saving the economy, he is active in Regatta, Rotary, and just about everything else that needs doing around here," he said.

OTHER AWARDS

- Chris Laman, director of Pharmacy at the Knight Cancer Center at Columbia Memorial Hospital, was given the chamber's Applause Award. Laman has been in charge of the county's COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

"His organizational skills, his knowledge of complex medical challenges, his calm leadership, and just his unappreciable charm turned little Clatsop County's vaccine rollout into a model for our tire state," Sen. Johnson

said.

- Bridgewater Bistro in Astoria won the Board President's Award for its sponsorship of the Great Columbia Crossing and communication throughout the pandemic.

- Hampton Lumber in Warrenton received the Ambassador's Choice Award for its innovative forest practices, work training programs for local high school students, and responsible building practices.

Dear Mari Jo, and Foundation

The town of Warrenton was platted in 1889 and was named after Daniel Knight Warren.
[His home still stands in town.]

D.K. Warren sent to Illinois for 1,000 sapling trees to be planted in the town, including some American Elm, Cedar, Spruce and Alders that are along the walking trail Spruce Up Warrenton recently had the Ivy and underbrush cleared, and cleaned the trail head so the trail is attractive and safer to use. This trail goes from the water front in Warrenton to the boat basin in Hammond.

I've enclosed pictures so you can see the vast improvement in the appearance, as well as healthy trees and a safer place to walk.

The Grant from the Reser Family Foundation made this project possible. The Grant we received from you has gone to improve this community beyond words. We've got a wooden statue of a fisherman at the marina, stainless steel silhouettes at the Library, electrical outlets for vendors at events, bought and built planters that are placed all along the four blocks of downtown Main Avenue. Purchased banners for the light poles, and currently have American flags ordered for the poles from the four way stop to ninth street. With collaboration with the city we have cleaned up over 60 properties. And have secured, or restored signs at City Hall, Fire Stations, and the Light House Museum.

The best part is that while our committee was working to make these improvements with the Grant we got from you, the community has "cleaned up" private property too. We have increased collaboration among City Commissions, Urban Renewal, Community Leaders and non profit volunteers.

Your Grant was the only money we had when we started Spruce Up Warrenton. We are proud of what we've accomplished and want to thank you again for your continued support. We literally could not have done it without you.

Brenda Hoxsey
Spruce Up Warrenton

P.S. I am happy to be a graduate of the Small Community Initiative and was pleased to meet you at the luncheon you brought to our meeting.

The Hoxseys win annual AWACC award

The Columbia Press

banquet on Saturday.

"I'll give it a straight-up, honest opinion," she once wrote in a letter. "Most often, I consider each of our projects an emergency. Our community's best hope for the future depends on the quality of the decisions and hard choices we have and our community spirit."

property cleanups."

Together the results were presented at a panel discussion on "The Role of the Retailer in the Supply Chain" moderated by Dr. John C. McKinney, Jr., University of Mississippi. The panelists discussed the importance of the retailer in the supply chain and the role of the retailer in the supply chain.

See 'Awards' on Page 4

Don Frank Photography

Heute sind die meisten Menschen überzeugt, dass die Welt nicht nur aus Materie besteht, sondern auch aus Geist. Dieser Geist ist das, was uns verbindet und uns ermöglicht, die Welt zu verstehen. Er ist das, was uns macht, was wir sind. Er ist das, was uns liebt und was wir lieben. Er ist das, was uns macht, was wir sind. Er ist das, was uns liebt und was wir lieben.

Awards: Three Astorians win George Award

Continued from Page 1

ty events, cleanups, trail improvements and more.

"They have been behind the renaissance and revitalization of Warrenton's downtown," Balensifer said.

The couple were tricked into attending the banquet when current Spruce Up Warrenton Director Jeanne Smith told them she couldn't attend because she and her husband had to be out of town.

"It was a real surprise and a real honor," Brenda said.

"But, you know, there are 14 or 15 people who do as much or more than we do."

They felt humbled by all the nice things said about them that night.

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Together they helped make the park project a reality, and the park is now open to the public.

P. 1 2018

You're Invited
to Join the Downtown
Revitalization Team...
*an All Volunteer,
Community-Based
Action Organization*



Our Mission

To develop and promote revitalization
and beautification within the context
of cultural and historic preservation
of downtown Warrenton and
the District of Hammond.

Comprehensive Focus to Revitalize Through the Main Street Approach Goals

❖ Organization

Bring the community together to build consensus, volunteer, invest, partner, and add resources to the revitalization efforts

❖ Design

Work with property and business owners and partners to enhance downtown's physical appearance while preserving the community historic identity and character

❖ Economic Vitality

Work with existing and potential businesses, property owners, and partners to strengthen and grow the local economic base

❖ Promotion

Work with partners and community to position downtown as a center of community activity, promote its positive image, and market its unique assets





Our Philosophy & Vision

We are working to make downtown better for the people that live in our community. We would like to have every building cleaned up and freshly painted, sidewalks, street cleaned, weeds pulled, and signage to identify and direct people to the community center. We would like to see sidewalks all the way to the high school on one side.

2019 Accomplishments Include

- Accepted at the **Exploring level** as a **member of the Oregon Main Street** program
- Identified a **color palette for property improvements** (nautical theme of navy, grays, teal)
- **Nuisance properties**
- Actively promoted the Fenton building and **helped recruit new tenants**

2019 Accomplishments Continued

- **Cleaned up 40 properties** (in collaboration with the City) that were either an eye sore, or dangerous, or in poor repair; two properties have actually been torn down
- Secured a **new sign for the library**, pulled weeds, cleaned the parking lot and drive-through
- Pressure washed the sidewalks on main streets, pulled weeds, and generally gotten the **downtown area cleaned up**
- Outreach to nearly all businesses in downtown to encourage property clean up resulted in **several property improvements**
- Provided **volunteer assistance** with trimming hedges, pulling weeds, and cleaning driveways
- **Increased collaboration** among City Commissioners, Urban Renewal and community volunteers.

Committee Leaders

Our sub-committees are organized to represent the Main Street approach. To get involved or for more information, contact us!

❖ Chair

Brenda Hoxsey
brendahox@gmail.com

❖ Organization Activities

Lori Beth Kulp
loribethkulp@gmail.com

❖ Promotion

Kelsey Balensifer
ost.kel@gmail.com

❖ Design

Kailee Kobe
kaileekobe@hotmail.com

❖ Economic Vitality Activities

Justin Kobe
jkobe1316@gmail.com



Questions? Interested in joining?

Come to a meeting or send us an email.
Your involvement is welcome!

Meetings:

3rd Thursday of every month at City Hall
Committee Meetings will be held at 11:30
the same day as the team meetings.



9 15, 2021

*You're invited
to join the*

**Spruce Up Warrenton
Revitalization Team ...
an All-Volunteer, Com-
munity-Based Action
Organization**



Our Mission

*To develop and promote revitalization and
beautification within the context of cultural and
historic preservation of downtown Warrenton
and the district of Hammond.*

Events

We host several events each year, including:

- The Fourth of July Parade and activities
- Fall Festival
- Christmas Tree Lighting and decorations
- East Egg Hunt

Goals

♦ Organization

Bring the community together to build consensus, volunteer, invest, partner, and add resources to the revitalization efforts. Work with existing and potential businesses, property owners and partners to strengthen and grow the local economic base.

♦ Design

Work with property and business owners and partners to enhance downtown's physical appearance while preserving the community historic identity and character.

♦ Economic Vitality

Work with existing and potential businesses, property owners, and partners to strengthen and grow the local economic base.

♦ Promotion

Four annual City events: Fall Festival, Christmas Lighting, Easter Egg Hunt, 4th of July Parade. Work with partners and community to position downtown as a center of community activity, promote its positive image, and market its unique asset.



Our Philosophy & Vision

We are working to make downtown better for the people who live in our community. We would like to have every building cleaned and freshly painted, streets cleaned, weeds pulled, and signs identifying and directing people to the community center. We would like to see an improved trail system.

Accomplishments

- Member of the Oregon Main Street Program/ Exploring level.
- Identified a **color palette for property improvements**: Nautical theme of navy, gray and white.
- Planted flowers on Main Street at several locations.
- Painted the Warrenton and Hammond Fire Station signs.
- Pressure-washed sidewalks on Main Street, general maintenance on Main Avenue to Third Street.

Accomplishments Continued

- Cleaned up 70 nuisance properties in collaboration with the City.
- Secured a new sign for the library, added silhouette sculptures at the front door, maintained the parking lot and added gardening.
- Donated electrical spider boxes and made other improvements to Robinson Community Park.
- Provided outreach to nearly all downtown businesses to encourage property cleanup, which resulted in several property improvements.
- Increased collaboration among City Commissioners, Urban Renewal and community volunteers and other nonprofit groups.
- Purchased banners for each season to be hung along Main Avenue.



Interested in joining an all-volunteer community-based action organization?

Your involvement is welcome!!!

We meet the third Thursday of every month
at City Hall at 11:30-1:00

We work off donations and a grant from
the Reser Family Foundation.

Contact us at
spruceupwarrenton@gmail.com
or on Facebook

Donations welcome! Send to:

Spruce Up Warrenton

PO Box 97

Warrenton, OR 97146



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